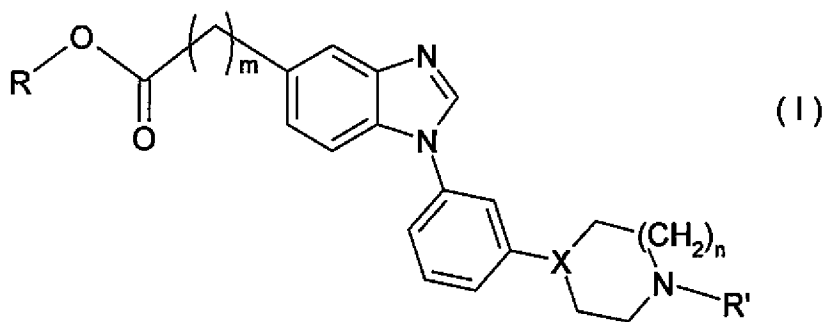


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A compound of general formula I:



or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R represents alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl,  $R^aR^bN$ -alkyl,  $R^aR^bN$ -CO-alkyl, or phenyl-alkyl;

wherein  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  independently of each other represents hydrogen or alkyl;

R' represents alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkenyl ~~[[,]]~~ or alkoxyalkynyl, ~~alkyl, carbonylalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;~~

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 ~~or~~ 2;

X represents N or CH.

2. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein ~~n is 1 and~~ X represents N.

3. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein ~~n is 1 and~~ X represents CH.

4. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R represents alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkoxyalkyl.

5. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R represents  $R^aR^bN$ -alkyl,  $R^aR^bN$ -CO-alkyl, or phenyl-alkyl;

wherein  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  independently of each other represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

6. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R' represents alkoxyalkyl.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, which is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1a**);

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1b**);

*n*-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1c**);

*iso*-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1d**);

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1e**);

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1f**);

*n*-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1g**);

*iso*-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1h**);

5-(methoxycarbonylmethyl) 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (**1i**);

5-(2-hydroxyethoxycarbonylmethyl) 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (**1j**);

~~2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(propargyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8a**);~~

~~2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(allyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8b**);~~

~~2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxo-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8c**);~~

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-methoxyethyl-4-piperidinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (8d);

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(propargyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (8e);

Benzyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10a);

Methylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10b);

Ethylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10c);

2-Dimethylaminoethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10d);

Benzyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10e);

Methylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10f);

Ethylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10g);

2-Dimethylaminoethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (10h);

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

10. (Currently amended) A method for treatment, ~~prevention~~ or alleviation of ~~a disease or a disorder or a condition~~ fever cramps or status epilepticus or for inducing anaesthesia, pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation, or sedation of a living animal body, including a human, ~~which~~

~~disorder, disease or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex~~, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Canceled)